



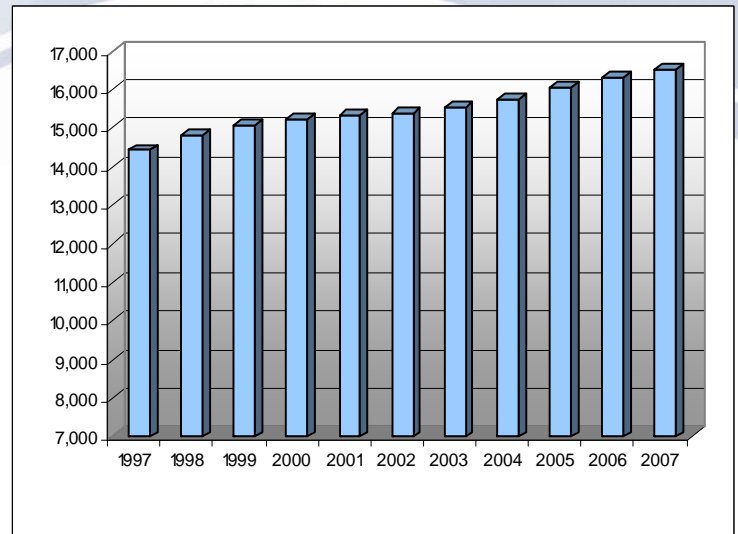
Gem County

October 2008

Work Force Trends

Population

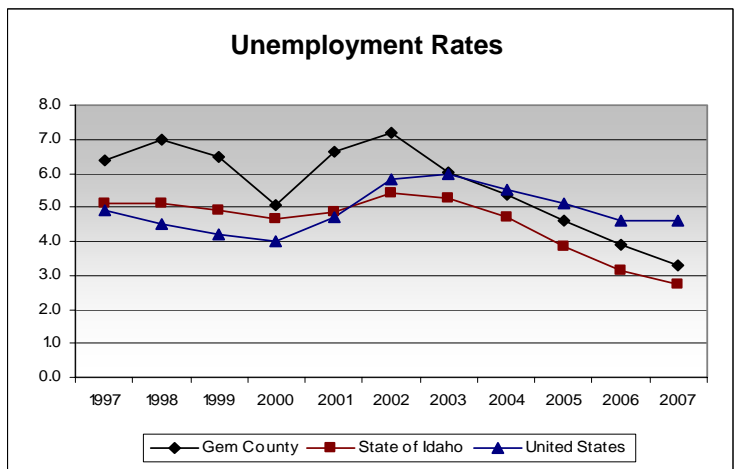
Gem County is the 19th most populous of Idaho's 44 counties and the fifth smallest geographically. Approximately 38 percent is owned by the federal government. The population in Gem County has been steadily increasing over the past decade adding 2,074 people between 1997 and 2007, down from the 2,506 people added between 1996 and 2006. Gem County has maintained a steady 10-year average growth rate of around 18 percent for some time which dropped to 14.3 percent for the decade ending in 2007. This is largely due to the slowing growth in nearby Ada and Canyon counties resulting in less overflow growth in Gem County. People have been moving to Gem county to escape the crowds and congestion while at the same time seeking a more rural lifestyle than is available in the nearby more populous areas.



Labor Force & Employment

The civilian labor force of Gem County continued to experience robust growth from 1997 to 2007 although at a decreasing rate of 1,091 people, down from 1996 to 2006's increase of just over 1,300. Nevertheless, the decade ending in 2007 still had a healthy growth rate of 17.3 percent. The unemployment rate in Gem County in 2007 made it two consecutive years Gem County has been below the commonly accepted definition of full employment coming in at 3.3 percent, down six-tenths from 2006. In 2007 Gem County continued to benefit from being so close to Ada and Canyon Counties as Gem's large commuting population continued to find work in the larger metro area.

Gem County did not have the robust nonfarm job growth in 2007 as was experienced in 2006 for a couple of reasons. First, construction was slowing in Ada and Canyon counties, which consequently affected construction activity in Gem County that increased only 10 jobs in 2007, down from the

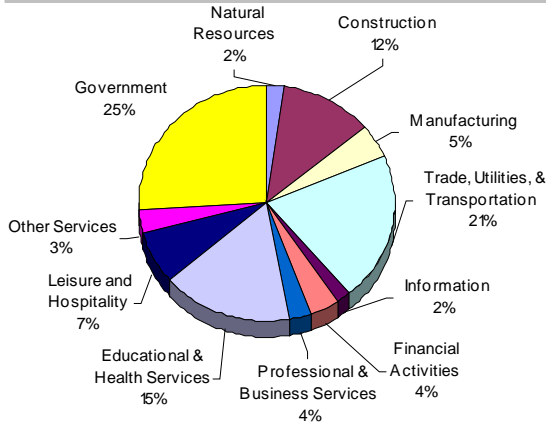


96 jobs added in 2006. Second, the county missed out on high commodity prices in agriculture. Orchard crops and poultry are Gem County's main agricultural products, and both have not experienced the increases of dairy, grain products and corn. Other area industries responded with slight declines fueled by the national economic downturn. Trade, transportation and utilities, financial activities and information all lost jobs in 2007. Look for 2008 to be a slower year as well, as the area's economy attempts to stabilize.

Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	7,325	7,372
Total Employment	7,120	6,877
Unemployed	205	495
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.8	6.7
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	6,290	6,400	6,260	7,040	7,222	7,089	7,030	7,024	7,172	7,265	7,391
Unemployment	402	448	408	357	478	509	424	377	331	284	244
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.4	7.0	6.5	5.1	6.6	7.2	6.0	5.4	4.6	3.9	3.3
Employment	5,888	5,952	5,852	6,683	6,744	6,580	6,606	6,647	6,841	6,981	7,147

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



Per Capita Income & Employment

According to the latest Census figures, Gem County made a big jump to 29th in the state from 34th in the state in per capita income, moving from \$22,270 in 2005 to \$24,163 in 2006. Job growth in higher wage industries and more people moving to the county, especially retirees, both contributed to the increase.

Trade, transportation and utilities, education and health services and government account for the majority of jobs in Gem County. Covered wages increased by 3.6 percent in 2007 staying just ahead of the national consumer price index increase of 2.8 percent.

Major Employers

Gem County
Elderly Opportunity Agency Inc.
Walter Knox Memorial Hospital
Emmett Middle School
Emmett High School
Butte View Elementary School
Community Partnerships of Idaho Inc.
City of Emmett
Emmett Valley and Shoshone Livestock

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Occupational Wages*	Starting Wage
Retail Salesperson	\$7.20
Licensed Practical Nurse	\$14.67
Construction Laborer	\$8.91
Cook	\$9.46
Medical Assistant	\$10.82
Farm Laborer	\$6.55
Maintenance Workers	\$9.88
Equipment Operator	\$12.22
Registered Nurse	\$18.70
Office Clerk	\$8.65
Electrician	\$11.95
Bookkeeper	\$10.08

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor Web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	3,181	\$20,550	3,453	\$24,880	3,407	\$25,811
Agriculture	274	\$20,955	172	\$27,640	150	\$30,139
Mining	*	*	13	\$43,248	*	*
Construction	159	\$18,445	385	\$24,568	403	\$28,223
Manufacturing	506	\$33,244	145	\$33,410	153	\$33,378
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	656	\$15,958	709	\$27,521	677	\$26,584
Information	18	\$19,595	70	\$31,552	59	\$37,716
Financial Activities	114	\$18,094	136	\$26,265	119	\$26,181
Professional and Business Services	106	\$19,567	114	\$25,936	95	\$29,602
Educational and Health Services	307	\$17,479	538	\$19,246	550	\$21,165
Leisure and Hospitality	202	\$6,693	238	\$9,318	241	\$9,700
Other Services	69	\$11,257	76	\$17,702	94	\$18,153
Government	755	\$22,409	857	\$28,162	852	\$28,743

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Gem County	\$17,358	\$17,880	\$18,219	\$19,388	\$20,025	\$19,472	\$19,642	\$21,088	\$22,270	\$24,163
State of Idaho	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
United States	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
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labor.idaho.gov

This publication is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor.

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